

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy  
Hearing on “Modernizing the Business of Environmental Regulation and Protection”  
July 23, 2014**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing to explore what EPA, the states, and the regulated community are doing to modernize environmental regulation and compliance.

In 2012, members of this committee worked together to authorize the E-manifest program so that EPA and the states could, for the first time, develop and implement a system for electronic tracking of hazardous waste. While the basic idea was simple, moving it through the legislative process was harder than it looked. We had to navigate budget protocols in two bodies of Congress and sort out user fees for the regulated community. But at the end, the bill we negotiated in this committee passed both the House and Senate without dissent and was signed into law by the president.

Today we will hear first-hand how the states and regulated community are also working to modernize their environmental enforcement and compliance systems. While our witnesses today from Arizona, Arkansas, and Massachusetts will share on-the-ground success stories, we know that all our states are innovating practical, often technology-based improvements to make environmental protection faster, more efficient, and less costly.

An important benefit of many of these modernization steps is that when non-compliance is detected, regulated entities are brought back into compliance sooner. This is good news for the environment, and good news for all entities who take pride in their reputations as environmentally friendly businesses.

What most of these modernization steps have in common is improved communication – people understanding each other more quickly and clearly. I’m hoping this hearing will give other states and us in Congress a chance to discover and apply best practices for improving productivity. But today’s hearing will not be the end of the story. These innovations are continually being developed and refined, and I know states will continue to exchange ideas and information so that all can benefit.

And if there are any more commonsense innovations like E-manifest that need federal legislation to implement, I’d like EPA, the states, and the regulated community to point them out so we can work together to make them possible.

###